**HUMN 220 Arts & Ideas: Ancient/Medieval**

Section 01: TR 2:00-3:15pm LANG 106  
Section 02: TR 12:30-1:45pm GLNN 314  
Dr. Corey Sparks  
Office: PAC 104  
Office Hours: W 11a-2:30p; R 3:15-4:45p  
Email: ctsparks@csuchico.edu

**Course Description & Goals**  
This course surveys the intellectual and cultural history of the West from ancient Mesopotamia to the later Middle Ages (approximately 2000BC—1500AD). We will attend to a variety of texts and objects: literary, religious, philosophical, architectural, and artistic.

This course counts towards the major in Humanities (40-41 units, in which it is a core requirement); the minor in Humanities (21 units); the minor in Classical Civilization (19–21 units); the minor in Modern Jewish and Israel Studies (18 units); and the minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies (18 units); as well as GE credit in the Ethics, Justice, and Policy pathway. The Ethics, Justice, and Policy Studies Pathway (Area C1: Arts) is designed to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge for active and responsible engagement in the social decision-making process. The pathway recognizes that a person’s position on any public issue needs to be tied not only to facts and a thorough understanding of the issues and mechanisms that guide the policy process, but also to an ability to draw on and challenge culturally informed understandings of what constitutes justice and ethical behavior.

GE Student Learning Objectives  
SLO1: Demonstrate knowledge of major strands of western culture.  
SLO2: Understand how varied disciplines (including philosophy, religious studies, history, languages and literatures, art, music, and theater) are applied to the study of the humanities and material culture.  
SLO3: Demonstrate skills of critical reading, listening, and reasoning.

B.A. in Humanities Student Learning Objectives  
SLO1. Students can demonstrate factual knowledge of the emergence and development of a set of ideas, an artistic form or medium, or a religious, philosophical, or artistic tradition.  
SLO2. Students will be able to apply methodological approaches of at least two academic disciplines in the humanities.  
SLO3. Students will demonstrate the ability to perform close analysis of or assess a given cultural artifact with reference to standards appropriate to the medium, cultural origin and time period of the work.  
SLO4a. Students can make clear, well organized, and substantive written presentations.  
SLO4b. Students can make clear, well organized, and substantive oral presentations.  
SLO5. Students will be able to read and comprehend beginning or intermediate level prose in the foreign language.
**Required Texts & Materials**

You must use the text edition listed below.

- Various readings, slideshows, and videos available on BbL. (see course schedule for more info)
- Notebook (exclusively used for your Reading/Viewing Journal)

**Course Policies**

*Participation:* Class will include lecture and discussion. Careful reading, critical thinking, and honest and thoughtful discussion will be central to the course. Regular attendance, thorough preparation, and active participation in class discussions are essential to your success.

*Attendance:* You are allowed three absences total. For every absence over three, your final grade is reduced by 1/3 (i.e. from B- to C+). Regular non-attendance for any reason may result in being dropped from the course. For the relevant university attendance statement see: “Attendance in Class” [https://catalog.csuchico.edu/viewer/12/ACAREGS.html#Attendance](https://catalog.csuchico.edu/viewer/12/ACAREGS.html#Attendance)

*Assignment Credit:* All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed on the course schedule unless otherwise noted. I do not accept late work. If you know or suspect you may be absent, it is up to you to make preparations to submit your classwork.

*Academic Integrity:* Any assignment you submit with your name on it signifies that you are the author—that the wording and ideas are yours, with exceptions indicated by quotation marks and citations. Briefly, plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of others’ materials (words or ideas). We will discuss how to avoid it, including correct quotation and citation practices. Evidence of cheating, plagiarism, or other misuse of sources may result in the reduction of an assignment grade or a reduction in your course grade. Please see the “Policy on Academic Integrity and the Establishment of the Academic Integrity Council; Revised,” at [http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/2004/04-036.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/2004/04-036.shtml).

*Tutoring Services (SLC):* Tutoring is available through the Student Learning Center, 400 West First Street, 530-898-5839, [http://www.csuchico.edu/slc/](http://www.csuchico.edu/slc/)

*Accessibility Resource Center:* If you need course adaptations or accommodations, please see me during office hours. Please also contact Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) as will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations. [http://www.csuchico.edu/arc/](http://www.csuchico.edu/arc/)

*Title IX:* I want this course to be a safe learning environment, one in which you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct with the university. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the Counseling and Wellness Center (898-6345) or Safe Place (898-3030). Information about campus reporting obligations and other Title IX related resources are available here: [www.csuchico.edu/title-ix](http://www.csuchico.edu/title-ix)
Grading & Assignments
A = 100 – 93, A- = 92 – 90
B+ = 89 – 87, B = 86 – 83, B- = 82 – 80
C+ = 79 – 77, C = 76 – 73, C- = 72 – 70
D+ = 69 – 67, D = 66 – 60, F = 59 - 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading &amp; Viewing Journal</th>
<th>√- / √ / √+</th>
<th>various</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Essay</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>3/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Premodern Space Group Project</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Annotated Bibliography]</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Media Piece]</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Research Presentations]</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5/3-5/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td><strong>Total: 500</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>[Extra Credit Opportunities]</td>
<td>[10 pts ea, up to 30 pts]</td>
<td>by 4/28</td>
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Reading & Viewing Journal: Notebook for reading & viewing guides. Collection dates will be periodic and unannounced. Journal credit is a check system: √- / √ / √+. These marks affect your final grade in the course. Receiving a majority of check pluses will raise your final grade by 1/3; a majority of check minuses will lower your final grade by 1/3; a majority of checks will keep your final grade where it is.

Midterm Essay: An analytical essay that develops one of your journal entries into a larger argument. 150 points.

Final Exam: A comprehensive exam covering readings, slideshows, and lectures. 150 points.

Premodern Space Project: Over the course of the semester you will work on a multimodal group research project. Choose a specific premodern space (from a list I provide). The project will provide you a chance to demonstrate your critical thinking as well as a creativity. The parts of the project include:

- Annotated Bibliography: An MLA-format bibliography of 10 sources about your chosen space; each bibliographic entry has a 150-word annotation summarizing the source. 50 points
- Group Research Presentations: Polished 20 minute presentation to your classmates in which you summarize your research findings and advance an interpretation of your chosen space. 50 points.
- Group Media Piece: A photo essay, website, podcast, model, short film, map, or other media piece that critically and creatively presents your chosen space. 50 points

Extra Credit Opportunities: Attend a cultural event and write a 500-word response that briefly summarizes what happened and connects the event to our course. 10 points possible for each response; you may complete three extra credit responses during the semester. (Last day to submit extra credit is Thursday, 4/28.)

Schedule
1.
Tuesday 1/26
Introduction of the Course
Thursday 1/28
Introduction of the Course
Introduction to Ancient Art & Literature

2.
Tuesday 2/2 The Mesopotamians: Epic Literature
The Epic of Gilgamesh (PDF on BbL)
Foucault, “Of Other Spaces”
Thursday 2/4 The Mesopotamians: Epic Literature
*The Epic of Gilgamesh* (PDF on BbL)

3.
Tuesday 2/9 The Jews: Cosmogony
*Genesis* 1-4, 6-9 and 11 (on BbL)
**Thursday 2/11 The Jews: Existential Literature**
*Job* 1-14 and 29-31 and 37-42 (will be on pp 5-37 and 69-91 of the pdf) (on BbL)

4.
**Tuesday 2/16 Medieval Manuscripts**
Slideshow #1 (On BbL)
**Thursday 2/18 The Greeks: Cycladic, Minoan, & Mycenaean Art**
Slideshow #2 (on BbL)

5.
**Tuesday 2/23 The Greeks: Tragedy**
Sophocles, *Antigone* (on BbL)
**Thursday 2/25 The Greeks: Sculpture & Architecture**
Slideshow #3 (on BbL)
Midterm Essay Workshop

6.
**Tuesday 3/1 The Romans: Lyric Poetry**
Sulpicia, *Six Poems*; Ovid, *Ars Amatoria*, selections; Catullus, selected poems
Midterm Essay Workshop
**Thursday 3/3 The Romans: Art & Architecture**
Slideshow #4
Midterm Essay Due

7.
**Tuesday 3/8 Late Antiquity: Allegorical Literature**
Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy* (Book 1-3)
**Thursday 3/10 Late Antiquity: Allegorical Literature**
Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy* (Books 4-5)

8. SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

9.
**Tuesday 3/22 Medieval Architecture: Religious Architecture**
Slideshow #5 (on BbL)
**Thursday 3/24 Medieval Architecture: Secular Architecture**
Slideshow #6 (on BbL)

10.
**Tuesday 3/29 Medieval Literature: Chanson de Geste**
*Song of Roland* (laissez 1 – 177)
**Thursday 3/31 CESAR CHAVEZ DAY: NO CLASS**
Annotated Bibliography Due (to BbL)
11. Tuesday 4/5 Medieval Literature: Chanson de Geste
   *Song of Roland* (laisses 178 – 298)
   Fletcher, “Romance and Reality” (on BbL)
   **Thursday 4/7 The Muslims: Art & Architecture**
   Slideshow #7 (on BbL)

12. Tuesday 4/12 The Muslims: Mystical Poetry
   Selected poems (on BbL)
   **Thursday 4/14 Medieval Maps**

13. Tuesday 4/19 Medieval Literature: Letters
   *Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (Letters 2 – 6)
   Media Piece Due
   **Thursday 4/21 Medieval Literature: Letters**
   *Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (Letters 7 & 8)

14. Tuesday 4/26 Medieval Literature: Allegorical Literature
   Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*
   **Thursday 4/28 Medieval Literature: Allegorical Literature**
   Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*

15. Tuesday 5/3
    Premodern Space Project Presentations
    **Thursday 5/5**
    Premodern Space Project Presentations

16. Tuesday 5/7
    Premodern Space Project Presentations
    **Thursday 5/9**
    Premodern Space Project Presentations

**Finals Week**
Final Exam (Date & Time TBA)